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1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A method for managing data from multiple data sources using conduits,
3 comprising:

4 maintaining database tables in individual data contexts, wherein the database
5 tables contain data from multiple data sources;

6 ensuring name spaces are unique within each data context through conduits; and
7 combining the database tables into larger tables in a display context,

8 whereby a user interface can manage the data from multiple data sources through
9 the conduits.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the data from multiple data
11 sources in the display context.

12 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the ensuring step includes appending a source
13 identifier as a key field to the data before combining the database tables in the display
14 context.

15 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
16 requesting notifications for data changes in the display context by the conduits;
17 notifying the conduits of the data changes;
18 updating the data in the data contexts by the conduits, whereby shielding the user
19 interface from updating each data source individually.

20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the ensuring step includes appending a source
21 identifier as a key field to the data before combining the database tables in the display
22 context, and wherein the updating step includes stripping the source identifier from the
23 data before updating the data context.

24 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the updating step includes updating automatically
25 elements that depend on views against the database tables in the display context.

26 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the updating step includes updating explicitly
27 elements that do not depend on views against the database tables in the display context.

28 8. The method of claim 4, further comprising propagating the data changes through
29 the conduits to the data sources.

30 9. A system for managing data from multiple data sources, comprising:

31 one or more data contexts, wherein each data context is devoted to one of multiple
32 data sources;

33 one or more database tables that contain data from multiple data sources;

34 a display context that creates views to the one or more database tables; and

1 a conduit that append a source identifier as a key field to the data before
2 combining the database tables in the display context,
3 whereby a user interface can manage the data from multiple data sources through
4 the conduit.

5 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the conduit includes one or more collectors
6 capable of retrieving the data from the data source and inputting the data into the data
7 context associated with the data source.

8 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the conduit includes one or more combiners
9 capable of merging all data in the display context.

10 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the conduit has logical connections to the data
11 sources that includes one or more actual connections between individual collectors in the
12 conduit and individual instances of an object manager.

13 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the conduit requests notifications for data changes
14 in the display context.

15 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the conduit updates the data in the data contexts
16 after receiving the notifications for the data changes, whereby shielding the user interface
17 from updating each data source individually.

18 15. A computer readable medium providing instructions for managing data from
19 multiple data sources using conduits, the instructions comprising:

20 maintaining database tables in individual data contexts, wherein the database
21 tables contain data from multiple data sources;

22 ensuring name spaces are unique within each data context through conduits; and
23 combining the database tables into larger tables in a display context,

24 whereby a user interface can manage the data from multiple data sources through
25 the conduits.

26 16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising instructions for
27 displaying the data from multiple data sources in the display context.

28 17. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions for ensuring
29 include instructions for appending a source identifier as a key field to the data before
30 combining the database tables in the display context.

31 18. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising instructions for:
32 requesting notifications for data changes in the display context by the conduits;
33 notifying the conduits of the data changes;

1 updating the data in the data contexts by the conduits, whereby shielding the user
2 interface from updating each data source individually.

3 19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions for ensuring
4 include instructions for appending a source identifier as a key field to the data before
5 combining the database tables in the display context, and wherein the instructions for
6 updating includes instructions for striping the source identifier from the data before
7 updating the data context.

8 20. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising instructions for
9 propagating the data changes through the conduits to the data sources.

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FOOTNOTES